

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7 (Canceled)

8. (New) An apparatus for cleaning textile articles in a densified liquid state treatment gas comprising:

a treatment chamber;
a storage chamber;
an evaporator chamber,

said treatment, storage, and evaporator chambers being interconnected by conduits to allow pressure equalization between the treatment, storage, and evaporator chambers, filling of the treatment chamber with liquid state treatment gas from the storage chamber, and discharge of liquid state treatment gas from the treatment chamber to the evaporator chamber; and

a compressor to perform an essentially complete discharge of gas state treatment gas from the treatment chamber and to drive a distillation phase, wherein densified treatment gas discharged from the treatment chamber is transformed into gas state in the evaporator chamber and returned to the storage chamber via a condenser,

wherein the condenser is in heat transferring contact with the evaporator chamber, and

wherein the compressor and the condenser form a heat pump which alone provides energy required for evaporation of liquid in the evaporator chamber.

9. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a heat exchanger provided in a conduit connection between the evaporator chamber and the storage chamber.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the storage chamber is provided above the treatment chamber, which is provided above the evaporator chamber, so that liquid

state treatment gas can be conveyed from the storage chamber to the treatment chamber and from the treatment chamber to the evaporator chamber, respectively, by gravity.

11. (New) An apparatus for cleaning textile articles in a densified liquid state treatment gas comprising:

a treatment chamber having an evaporator therein;

a storage chamber, said treatment chamber and storage chamber being interconnected by conduits; and

a compressor to perform an essentially complete discharge of gas state treatment gas from the treatment chamber and to drive a distillation phase, during which densified treatment gas discharged from the treatment chamber is transformed into gas state in the evaporator and returned to the storage chamber via a condenser,

wherein the compressor and the condenser form a heat pump which alone provides energy required for evaporation of liquid in the evaporator.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the condenser is in heat transferring contact with the treatment chamber.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the condenser includes a vaporizer secured to a bottom portion of the treatment chamber and a heat exchanger extending through the vaporizer, wherein during an evaporator cycle, carbon dioxide gas is conveyed from the treatment chamber via the compressor and through the conduit to be condensed.

14. (New) A method for cleaning textile articles in a densified liquid state treatment gas comprising:

interconnecting a treatment chamber, a storage chamber, and an evaporator chamber via a plurality of conduits to allow pressure equalization between the treatment, storage, and evaporator chambers;

filling the treatment chamber with liquid state treatment gas from the storage chamber;

discharging liquid state treatment gas from the treatment chamber to the evaporator chamber via a compressor;

distilling the liquid state treatment gas by evaporating the liquid state treatment gas in the evaporator chamber and condensing the evaporated gas in a condenser, wherein the compressor and the condenser provide all of the energy required for evaporation of the liquid state treatment gas in the evaporator chamber.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein distilling the liquid state treatment gas always follows a cleaning process.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the liquid state treatment gas used in the treatment chamber is always cleaned by distillation before being returned to the storage tank.